

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: BASKET III - READING ROOMS

REF: (A) BELGRADE 557; (B) STATE 157018

1. FRENCH DEL IS INTRIGUED THAT SOVIETS ACCEPTED TEXT ON READING ROOMS IN RECENT IPU DECLARATION (PARAGRAPH D (C) ON CULTURE-REFTEL A). ACCORDING FRENCH REP, SOVDEL IN BELGRADE AT OUTSET STRONGLY OPPOSED ANY REFERENCE TO READING ROOMS; THEN, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS DELAY, THEY PROPOSED CERTAIN REVISIONS IN ORIGINAL FRENCH DRAFT WHICH WERE ACCEPTED BY WESTERN DELS. FRENCH REP BELIEVES THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TEND TO RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF "ERROR" AS EXPLANATION FOR SOVIET ACTION.

2. FRENCH ARE NOW CONSIDERING VARIOUS WAYS TO PROBE REACTION OF SOVDEL HERE TO THIS PARTICULAR LANGUAGE. (CERTAIN NEUTRAL DELS HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT THIS TEXT TO ATTENTION OF EE DELS, WHICH ARE REPORTEDLY REQUESTING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS). FRENCH REP ADDED THAT HIS DEL IS INTERESTED IN ANY INDICATION F SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO AT LEAST DISCUSS THIS ISSUE BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO ANY SPECIFIC REVISION OF THEIR EXISTING TEXT ON ESTABLISHMENT FOREIGN LIBRARIES/ READING ROOMS.

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3. COMMENT: WHILE FRENCH REP DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, HE IMPLIED THAT HIS DELEGATION COULD, AS FINAL FALL-BACK POSITION, PROBABLY ACCEPT FORMULA ALONG LINES OF IPU STATEMENT I.E. "PROMOTE BROADER DISSEMINATION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE SETTING UP, THROUGH AGREEMENT AMONGST THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, OF READING ROOMS FOR FOREIGN WORKS". IF SO, FRENCH WOULD HAVE RETREATED TO TEXT WEAKER THAN "MORE REALISTIC TEXT" WHICH DEPARTMENT PROPOSED IN REF B. THIS REGARD, FRENCH REP STRESSED THAT "WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF WE COULD OBTAIN TEXT" ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY DEPARTMENT. END COMMENT.

4. FOR BELGRADE: USDEL WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY ON CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DRAFTING OF IPU TEXT ON READING ROOMS.
DALE

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